

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1032

Introduced by Assembly Member Blumenfield

February 27, 2009

An act to add Section 99500.5 to the Government Code, relating to international relations.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1032, as introduced, Blumenfield. International relations: memorandum of understanding: Israel.

Existing law, the California International Trade and Investment Act, specifies that the Governor is the primary state officer representing the state's interest in international affairs and the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency is the primary state agency responsible for international trade and investment activities in the state. Existing law requires the Office of Planning and Research to maintain, and update, a full and comprehensive list of all state agreements made with foreign governments, as provided.

This bill would require the Governor to establish a memorandum of understanding to formalize a relationship between the state and Israel to foster technology development, business development, and educational opportunities in solar energy and environmental technology industries.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declare all of the
2 following:

3 (a) California and Israel share close ties and are global leaders
4 in environmental and solar technology.

5 (b) Promoting mutual business, research, and technology
6 development opportunities for renewable energy industries could
7 contribute to spurring innovations to the global marketplace.

8 (c) Technology and knowledge transfer on renewable energy
9 between academic and industry research teams are vitally important
10 to sustaining both industry-sector growth and regional economic
11 development.

12 (d) The state and cities, such as Los Angeles, through
13 memoranda of understanding, have been promoting bilateral trade
14 and tourism and exchanges for innovative homeland security
15 training and education.

16 (e) By encouraging new collaborative partnerships with Israel,
17 California may be able to increase investments for renewable
18 energy and increase employment opportunities in the state.

19 (f) California and Israeli companies have worked together to
20 build the world's largest solar power plant that over nearly the past
21 20 years has generated approximately 90 percent of the world's
22 commercial solar-derived electricity.

23 (g) The repeal of the statutory authority for the Technology,
24 Trade and Commerce Agency has increased the importance of
25 strengthening collaborative linkages at the federal, state, regional,
26 and local levels.

27 SEC. 2. Section 99500.5 is added to the Government Code, to
28 read:

29 99500.5. Consistent with federal law, the Governor shall
30 establish a memorandum of understanding to formalize a
31 relationship between the state and Israel to foster technology
32 development, business development, and educational opportunities
33 in solar energy and the environmental technology industries. The
34 memorandum of understanding shall allow California and Israel
35 to do all of the following:

36 (a) Improve the strategic coordination of technology
37 development and human capital.

38 (b) Encourage priorities for public and private investments.

1 (c) Facilitate collaboration among business and academics to
2 increase global market opportunities and employment associated
3 with renewable energy technologies.

4 (d) Promote development and production of innovative and
5 globally competitive renewable energy products to contribute to
6 sustained job growth for residents of both California and Israel.

7 (e) Set qualitative and quantitative targets to maximize total
8 economic development on a bilateral basis.

9 (f) Assess the feasibility of establishing an industry
10 sector-specific consortium that could significantly increase the
11 economic return from technology transfer and technology
12 commercialization efforts in these industry sectors.